Message Text

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O 161213Z FEB 77 FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1319

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 2347

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: PFOR IN

SUBJECT: MISS LILLIAN'S VISIT TO BOMBAY

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION NEW DELHI FROM BOMBAY FEB 16 REPEATED:

QUOTE

BOMBAY 0390

E. O. 11652: N/A TAGS: PFOR, IN

SUBJ: MISS LILLIAN'S VISIT TO BOMBAY

- 1. MRS. CARTER'S RETURN TO BOMBAY WAS WELCOMED BY ENTHUSIASTIC CROWDS AT ALL STOPS IN HER 20-HOUR VISIT. TOP OFFICIALS, PROFESS ONAL COLLEAGUES AS WELL AS MANY PEOPLE SHE HAD TREATED TURNED OUT TO SHOW THEIR AFFECTION.
- 2. RESPECTING HER WISHES TO KEEP THE FOCUS OF HER VISIT ON HER PERSONAL TIES AT THE GODREJ INDUSTRIAL CENTER WHERE SHE HAD LIVED AND WORKED, OFFICIAL ACTIVITIES WERE MINIMAL AND IN TOW-KEY. THE GOVERNOR CALLED ON HER IN HER BUNGALOW AT HIS RESIDANCE, THE RAJ BHAVAN, SHORTLY AFTER HER ARRIVAL IN THE LATE EVENING OF FEBRUARY 14. UNCLASSIFIED

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THE NEXT MORNING THERE WERE NO OFFICIAL VISITS AND HER PARTY LEFT THE RAJ BHAVAN AT 9:30 A.M. FOR THE GODREJ COMPLEX AT THE VILLAGE OF VIKHROLI, 45 MINUTES AWAY.

3. ON ARRIVAL AT VIKHROLI AT 10:15, SHE WAS WELCOMED BY AN ASSEMBLY OF THOUSANDS OF GODREJ WORKERS, MANY OF WHOM SHE HAD TREATED WHILE SERVING THERE FROM 1966 TO 1968 AS

A PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER NURSE. CLOSE TO THE ROSTRUM WHERE SHE ADDRESSED THE CROWD WERE A GROUP OF SMALL CHILDREN WHO SHE HAD IMMUNIZED TEN YEARS AGO.

4. AFTER THE WELCOMING CEREMONY, MRS. CARTER VISITED THE PLACES WHERE SHE HAD WORKED: FIRST A HIGH SCHOOL, THEN A PRE-PRIMARY SCHOOL WHERE THE TINY CHILDREN PUT ON A DELIGHTFUL SKIT. THEN SHE WEN'T TO THE PRAGATI KENDRA (WELFARE CENTER) WHERE HER VISIT COINCIDED WITH THE WEEKLY DISTRIBUTION OF FOOD FROM AMERICA PROVIDED BY VOLUNTARY AGENCIES UNDER THE PL480 TITLE II PROGRAM, AN ACTIVITY THAT HAS CONTINUED SINCE MRS. CARTER'S PEACE CORPS SERVICE AT GODREI

5. AFTER THE PRAGATI KENDRA VISIT THE PRESS COVERAGE OF THE VISIT CEASED AND MRS. CARTER ENJOYED IN INFORMAL TWO-HOUR LUNCH WHERE SHE HAD A CHANCE TO RENEW PERSONAL ACQUAINTANCES WITH CO-WORKERS FROM A DECADE AGO (TEACHERS, DOCTORS, NURSES AND SOCIAL WORKERS).

6. THE CLIMAX OF HER FIVE-HOUR VISIT TO THE GODREJ COMPLEX WAS A STOP AT THE APARTMENT WHERE SHE LIVED TEN YEARS AGO. SOME OF HER FORMER NEIGHBORS STILL LIVE IN THE VICINITY AND WERE ON HAND TO EXCHANGE REMINISCENCES.

7. AT 3:10 P.M. THE GROUP LEFT VIKHROLI TO RETURN TO THE SANTA CRUZ AIRPORT FOR THE FLIGHT BACK HOME. AT MANY POINTS ALONG THE MOTORCADE'S ROUTE WELL-WISHERS WAVED GREETINGS TO MRS. CARTER WHO HAS BECOME A SYMBOL OF THE PERSONAL TIES MANY UNCLASSIFIED

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INDIANS FEEL FOR THE UNITED STATES.

8. ON ARRIVAL AT THE AIRPORT, MRS. CARTER WAS MET BY THE CHIEF MINISTER OF MAHARASHTRA WHO HAD INTERRUPTED HIS ELECTION CAMPAIGNING TO HELICOPTER TO BOMBAY FROM POONA (120 MILES AWAY) TO PAY HIS RESPECTS TO MRS. CARTER. ALSO AT THE AIRCRAFT WERE THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR PROTOCOL, MR. LEON D'SOUZA, THE MAYOR OF BOMBAY, MANOHAR JOSHI, THE INSHECTOR GENERAL OF POLICEBN E.S. MODAK, AND MANY OTHER LEADING BOMBAY FIGURES.

9. THE PLANE DEPARTED ON SCHEDULE AT 4:00 P.M. ENDING A TOUCHING DEMONSTRATION OF THE AFFECTION BOMBAY HOLDS FOR MISS LILLIAN, AS SHE IS WIDELY KNOWN HERE.

10. THE DETAILED SCHEDULE FOLLOWS:

FEBRUARY 14, 1977:

1945 ARRIVAL AT SANTA CRUZ AIRPORT FROM NEW DELHI GREETED BY GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA MINISTER FOR SOCIAL WELFARE, KASTURI

2015 DEPARTURE FOR GOVERNOR'S RESIDENCE, RAJ BHAVAN

2100 ARRIVAL AT RAJ BHAVAN FOR NIGHT'S REST.

FEBRUARS 15, 1977:

0915 ARRIVAL AT RAJBHAVAN OF NR. SOHRAB OODREJ WHO ESCORTS CARTER PARS O VIKHROLI

0930 DEPART RAJ BHAVAN

1015 ARRIVE VIKHROLI

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1015 MEETING BEWEEN PLANT #1 AND PLANT #2 WITH EMPLOYEES

1045 VISIT TO DISPENSARY

1115 VISIT TO HIGH SCHOOL

114 VISIT TO PRE-PRIMARY SCHOOL

1200 MISIT TO PRIMARY SCHOOL

1215 VISIT TO PRAGATI KENDRA (DISTRIBUTION AMERICAN FOOD TO CHILDREN)

1245 REST, LUNCH, AND VISIT WITH CLOSE FRIENDS

1445 VISIT TO FORMER APARTMENT

1510 DEPART MIKHROLI

1530 ARRIVE SANTA CRUZ

1600 DEPART BOMBAYCOURTNEY

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	Margaret P. Grafeld	Declassified/Released	US Department of State	EO Systematic Review	22 May 2009
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Subject: MISS LILLIAN\'S VISIT TO BOMBAY FOLLOWING SENT ACTION NEW DELHI FROM BOMBAY FEB 16 REPEATED: QUOTE

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